

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021

Courant Community

LOCAL NEWS

Teen center has more to offer



South Windsor Teen Center Program Coordinator Danielle Bifolck said teens like to come to the center, because they can be themselves and take part in a variety of activities. Story, page 3. **STEVE SMITH/COURANT COMMUNITY**

LOCAL NEWS



Ellington's Madeline Duskocy chips the ball toward the goal. **STEVE SMITH/COURANT COMMUNITY**

Ellington starts tourney on winning note

A quick comeback goal and two in overtime got the Knights a first round victory. **Pages 8-9**

LOCAL NEWS

Locals celebrating milestones

From a second birthday to a 100th birthday and everywhere in between, we wish them all the best. **Page 4**

LOCAL NEWS

Struggling vets need more than thoughts

Although they appreciate well wishes they get, some of them need much more concrete support. **Page 5**



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Holiday Village Fair taking place at First Congregational

VERNON — EAST HARTFORD — First Congregational Church, 837 Main St., will host its Holiday Village Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Visit <https://www.churchcorners.org/> or call 860-528-3133 for more information.

Goodwin University hosting Connecticut Foodshare turkey drive

EAST HARTFORD — Goodwin University will again host an annual turkey drive in cooperation with Connecticut Foodshare on Thursday, Nov. 18, between 8 a.m. and noon.

The collection spot will be the back two rows of the main parking lot at 211 Riverside Drive (main Goodwin academic building). Just drive through and hand off donations to the volunteers. This year, the Goodwin team has committed to collecting 160 turkeys and \$5,000 in monetary donations. For more information, contact Maura Callahan at mcallahan@goodwin.edu or 860-913-2037.

American Legion meeting taking place in South Windsor

SOUTH WINDSOR — The Abe E. Miller American Legion Post 133 South Windsor meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of every month at the South Windsor Community Center, 150 Nevers Road, in room 205.

All veterans are welcome to attend. Coffee and Gerry's Donuts will be served. Admission is a non-perishable food item to be donated to the SW food bank. Contact Ken Lewis for more information at 860-416-5276.

South Windsor Girl Scouts seeking volunteers, new members

SOUTH WINDSOR — South Windsor Girl Scout troops are forming for the 2021-22

Scouting year. Girl Scout levels are as follows: GS Daisy (kindergarten and first grade); GS Brownie (grades second and third); GS Junior (grades four and five); GS Cadette (grades six through eight); GS Senior (grades 9 and 10), and GS Ambassador (grades 11 and 12).

Troops meet twice a month in person at local schools and other facilities or online, according to Covid guidelines, to plan activities that encourage friendship, community service, and skill building. Adult volunteers are welcome. Training and support are provided. Contact southwindsorgirlscouts@gmail.com for more information.

Frosty Village Bazaar taking place

TOLLAND — Get in the holiday mood at Saint Matthew Church, 111 Tolland Green, at the Frosty Village Bazaar on Friday, Nov. 19, from 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The bazaar will feature hand-crafted items, apple pies, baked goods and cookies, knit and crochet apparel, doll clothes, pet-inspired gifts, jewelry, attic treasures and raffles. The kitchen is open, with homemade soup to go for sale. Masks are required for this event. For more information, visit www.blessedsacramentct.org or call 860-872-0200.

Tolland Library hosting holiday silent auction

TOLLAND — The Tolland Public Library, 21 Tolland Green, will host a festival of table-top holiday trees and other decorations, available for silent bidding. Bidding ends on Dec. 3 at 5 p.m. and top bidders can take their items home. Others will be notified by phone that their bids were the best. For more information, contact the Tolland Public Library at 860-871-3620.

Society offering holiday marketplace

ELLINGTON — A new holiday marketplace at the Ellington Historical Society, 70 Main St., will be open for shopping Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., through Christmas. The holi-

day marketplace is filled to the brim with holiday decor, artisan finds, specialty collections and seasonal bargains. The 1812 Federalist style house museum, Nellie's Mercantile and the Vintage Wares Barn will also be open.

The classic old fashioned mercantile features farmhouse collections, town themed Ellington décor, local artisan wares and an inviting wonderland of a Christmas shop.

The historic 1812 Federalist style home features renovated exhibits including eras of styles, "Nellie" exhibits, wedding dress collection, vintage nursery, antique, china collection, sewing and textile exhibit, kitchen nostalgia, vintage women's clothing boutique and more.

Groups are welcome to book private shopping hours. Contact ellingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com for more information.

Ellington Farmers Market kicks off indoor winter market

ELLINGTON — The winter market kickoff of the Ellington Farmers Market will take place on Saturday, Nov. 20, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Ellington High School, 37 Maple St.

The market will feature local, fresh prepared and preserved foods and handmade artisan crafts. Visit <https://www.ellingtonfarmersmarket.com/> for more information.

Shop Ellington 2021 celebrates shopping local

ELLINGTON — The Ellington Economic Development Commission is sponsoring the second annual Shop Local campaign - Shop Ellington 2021. The event is intended to connect patrons and local businesses and will run for ten days starting Friday, Nov. 26, through Sunday, Dec. 5.

During the event, citizens can earn raffle tickets (stickers) toward becoming eligible for raffle prizes that will be awarded at a drawing in mid-December. Patrons are encouraged to visit participating Ellington businesses to learn about services, make purchases, grab a bite to eat/drink, take tours, etc., but no purchase is necessary. As long as a meaningful interaction transpires, patrons qualify for one ticket per interaction during the event.

After Dec. 5, customer raffle cards will be collected by the office of the EDC, the Ellington Planning Department, and cards with five or more stickers will be entered into a raffle drawing for a variety of prizes.

To learn how to become a participating business, how to print a Customer Raffle Card, and access more details about the event, contact planner@ellington-ct.gov or 860-870-3120.

Arts Center East hosting exhibit, book release event

VERNON — Arts Center East, 709 Hartford Turnpike, is hosting the following events. Visit <https://artscentereast.org/> for more information. Visitors to Arts Center East are asked to wear masks when inside the building, regardless of vaccination status.

Additional parking is available next door in the Center Road parking lot or across the street at First Congregational Church of Vernon.

The Marsha Gliha Exhibit in the Eureka Gallery will run from now through Nov. 21. Gliha is a French Impressionist artist.

The David McGrath book release event will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Cost to attend is \$30 and includes one copy of the book and a piece of memorabilia signed by Gene Pitney. Reserve your tickets online at www.artscentereast.org or call 860-871-8222.

McGrath's book is "Gene Pitney: The Singer, the Songs, and the Songwriters." McGrath will be joined by a panel of friends and will share the stories behind the songs as well as personal anecdotes of their time spent with Gene.

Additional books will be available for purchase. McGrath and Mrs. Gene Pitney will sign books after the event.

Holiday Music for Guitar & Mandolin from Judy Handler and Mark Levesque will take place at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12. Cost is \$15 general admission and free for individuals under 18.

Handler and Levesque will offer captivating commentary about the origins of holiday music from the U.S., England, Ireland, Wales, Germany, Russia, Puerto Rico, and songs of

Turn to Community News, Page 4

Courant Community

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To submit Good Neighbor items, birthday greetings, engagement or wedding announcements, email community@courant.com.

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South Windsor’s Teen Center has more to offer

By Steve Smith
Courant Community

SOUTH WINDSOR — Pre-pandemic, the South Windsor Teen Center, located in the Charles N. Enes Community Center, had a robust attendance at its afternoon and Friday evening drop-in times for middle school and high school students.

Naturally, not much was happening during the height of COVID, but now the center is revamped, open for business, and hoping to attract more teens.

Danielle Bifolck started as the teen center coordinator in October of 2020, and said the staff has made a few small upgrades and rearranged the space to make it more fun and inviting.

The center has two pool tables, ping-pong, air hockey, and skeeball, as well as a ton of board games, arts, crafts, and activities. Snacks are available and there is a large screen for movies or video games.

The central component to the center is that it’s a safe space for teens to interact with each other. There is also help available for teens who are struggling with any sort of issue.

“If they are going through a mental health crisis, or need to speak to someone, we have social workers here,” Bifolck said. “Even if it’s not that much of an issue, we have built such great relationships with the students... they feel comfortable to come talk to us about stuff. We have some great open conversations.”

Bifolck has implemented virtual programs, including “Skills for Success,” an 8-week program for middle schoolers that teaches about healthy relationships, conflict resolutions, personal boundaries, and making friends.

Last spring, there was a walking group that met once a week, utilizing nearby Nevers Park and other parks in town, as a way to get some light exercise, ditch technology, and practice some mindfulness.

“That was actually really successful. We had like 20 kids participate,” Bifolck said.

There is also a youth council group,



Teen Center Program Coordinator Danielle Bifolck said teens like to come to the teen center, because they can be themselves and take part in a variety of activities. **STEVE SMITH**

comprised of volunteer high school students, with approximately 40 current members.

“It’s really just students interested in volunteering, building their resume, and leadership development,” she said, adding that the group volunteers at the South Windsor Farmers Market, the parks and recreation department’s Mud Run, and events at the senior center, as well as donation drives throughout the year, including the current canned good and coat drive and upcoming holiday toy drive.

Similarly, the Rising Stars, a two-week

summer program, explores leadership skills and team-building, has helped at the South Windsor Dog Park, visited the animal sanctuary at TicketNetwork, and at the Wood Memorial Library.

Bifolck said she likes her job, because she can cater the program to the young people, with support from the town’s Human Services department.

“If I want to do a program, I can do it,” she said. “If I see the kids need a certain program, I can implement it.”

The center’s current drop-in hours for

middle school students are Tuesdays from 3 to 5:30 p.m. and Friday nights from 5:45 to 9:30 p.m. Bifolck said she’s hoping to add more sessions for middle school students, if interest increases.

High school student sessions are from 2 to 4:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, coinciding with the late bus schedule at SWHS (which is across the street).

For more information, call 860-648-6360 or e-mail Danielle.Bifolck@southwindsor-ct.gov.

ORTHOPEDIC UPDATE

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Community News

from Page 2

Hanukkah.

Classes offered include a creative writing workshop and creative acrylics. Visit <https://artscentereast.org/classes-and-events/> for more information.

Arts Center East issued a call for photographers for its 10th annual photography exhibit. The submission deadline is Dec. 15 and the exhibit dates are Jan. 8 to 29. The exhibit is open to photographers ages 18 and older who work in digital and film photography. All subjects are welcome, whether nature photography, architecture, close-ups of small details, portraits, etc. This exhibit is to showcase the unique ways photographers view and capture the world around us. Visit www.artscentereast.org to submit your photograph online.

Society seeking donations for holiday craft fair, sale

VERNON — The Vernon Historical Society will host its annual holiday craft fair and sale on Saturday, Nov. 27, and Sunday, Nov. 28, at the Historical Society's Museum at 734 Hartford Turnpike.

In addition to the work of local crafters, the craft fair offers the popular "Nearly New" tables covered with treasures and holiday items at reasonable prices. Any donations are appreciated and the proceeds from the sale of the "Nearly New" items go to support the work of the Vernon Historical Society.

Donated items can be dropped off at the Historical Society's Museum on any Tuesday morning from 10 a.m. to noon, Thursdays between 10 a.m. and noon and 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., and on the second and fourth Sundays of the month between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. To make other arrangements for bringing items to the museum or for further information, call the Society at 860-875-4326.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS FOR TODAY'S PUZZLE



Vernon student competes on college swimming teams

WILLIMANTIC — The men's and women's swimming teams at Eastern Connecticut State University are amid their fall 2021 seasons. Among the student athletes are as follows.

Elizabeth Anderson is a sophomore from Willington who majors in biology and competes in the free stroke. Andrew Cavar is a sophomore from Vernon who majors in finance and competes in the free stroke.

Paige Cox is a first-year student from Glastonbury who majors in English and competes in the free and breast strokes. Elisabeth Graves is a senior from Norwich who majors in pre-secondary education certification and English and competes in the back and breast strokes.

Nathan Melia is a sophomore from Manchester who majors in art and competes in the free and back strokes. Vanessa Streb is a senior from Danielson who majors in biology and competes in the free and breast strokes. Jared Tofil is a first-year student from East Hartford who majors in communication and competes in the free and back strokes.

Church hosting holiday bazaar with Polish flair

HARTFORD — The Ladies Guild of SS. Cyril & Methodius Church and the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. are jointly hosting a holiday bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event will be held in the lower hall of SS. Cyril & Methodius Church, 63 Popieluszek Court, directly behind the Rectory at 55 Charter Oak Ave. and across the street from the Polish National Home. Popieluszek Court is a one-way street and must be approached from Wyllys Street.

The bazaar is free to the general public and handicapped accessible. Strict attention is being paid to air purity and disinfection with the use of three permanently installed Aerus Hydroxyl Blaster units in the hall.

The Ladies Guild will feature potato/cheese pierogi sold by the dozen, rings of kielbasa, pastries, pączki, babki, kielbasa sandwiches for lunch or takeout, as well as vintage jewelry, decorative Christmas wreaths, a jigsaw puzzle swap, and more.

Local crafters will be on hand to sell crocheted items, jewelry, gourmet truffles, peanut/cashew brittle and toffee. The Polish Cultural Club will be featuring books on Polish subjects, Polish import craft items including costumed dolls, a Unique Boutique, opłatki, and the club's "Favorite Recipes" cookbook. There will also be a display of Szopki, the traditional castle-like creches that originated in Kraków.

Proceeds from the Ladies Guild will benefit various Church programs and projects.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Courant Community will print a current birthday photo FREE in one edition. Submit a current photo and 15-word description including name, age, birthday, town, your name, daytime phone number to community@courant.com or to Courant Community, P.O. Box 569, Hartford, CT 06141. Please submit three weeks in advance to avoid disappointment.



Happy 10th Birthday, Aria (12/3): "You haven't lost that spark yet! Don't ever! We love you the mostest toastest!"



Happy 93rd Birthday, Mary (11/11): "Love to our mom, mother-in-law, and grandmother! XXXOOO."



Happy 100th Birthday, Edna (12/8): "We love you to the moon and back and more."



Happy 3rd Birthday, Carly (11/25): "You amaze us and brighten our lives daily. Love, Mom and Dad."



Happy 8th Birthday, Domenic (12/6): "We can't wait to celebrate you! Mom, Dad, Dri, and Scratch."



Happy 68th Birthday, Katherine (11/22): "You light up our lives."



Happy 10th Birthday, Luka (11/25): "We love you! Mommo, Daddo, and Doggo."



Happy 2nd Birthday, Sam (11/26): "Your baba, mommy, and sis Shriya love you so much."



In this 2019 file photo, Principal Tracie Peterson holds the microphone as first-graders at Poquonock School offer their thanks to veterans attending the school's Veterans Day Ceremony. In addition to thanks and well-wishes, West Hartford veteran and town manager Matt Hart says veterans today need support. **MARK MIRKO / HARTFORD COURANT**

As we celebrate Veterans Day, remember struggling veterans need more than thoughts

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

Although veterans appreciate the handshakes, “thank yous” and well wishes they get on Veterans Day, some of them desperately need much more concrete support, West Hartford Town Manager Matt Hart says.

“I want to highlight the needs of the veterans’ community, particularly those who struggle,” said Hart.

Hart, who was an Army sergeant before his career in government management, said Wednesday that he’s seen too many veterans struggling with psychological issues and substance abuse. That includes some who never saw combat.

“Sometimes it’s not a physical injury, although often times it’s accompanied by one. But it’s the stress that people carry, and the need,” Hart said.

Although Hart never went overseas in his service from 1987 to 1990, some members of his unit stayed in longer and were deployed.

“A guy I served with, he just died this past weekend — age 53, all alone. He stayed in, he did two tours in Afghanistan, (then) just over time his life crumbled, and his health as well,” Hart said.

“He was exceedingly fit as a young man. Over time, the mental health issues he strug-

gled with ... his physical condition began to deteriorate ... there was some substance abuse. ... It took its toll.”

Hart wants to encourage politicians and residents alike to do more for veterans, mostly by helping them transition to civilian jobs and civilian life.

“Support funding for veterans services across the board and have that expectation of our state and federal legislators,” Hart said.

“If you’re an employer considering hiring a veteran, give them a fair chance. Know going into it that maybe they are going to have a few things they struggle with, but have some patience in anticipation of long-term return on your investment in that person.”

Hart served from 1987 to 1990, mostly stationed at Fort Drum in New York, where he was promoted to sergeant. He then spent four years in the Army Reserve, and went on to earn a law degree and a master’s in public administration from the University of Connecticut. He was town manager in Mansfield and in 2017 took the job in West Hartford, where he lives with his wife and their daughters.

“I count myself as one of the lucky ones, I gained a tremendous amount from the experience. But some of my peers ... their lives have unfortunately worked out very differently,” Hart said.

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Developer Avner Krohn building apartment empire in central Connecticut

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

At first look, Avner Krohn wouldn't seem likely to be a mogul in the central Connecticut housing industry.

Krohn, a Long Islander who grew up near Westchester County, has no relatives or family business in Connecticut. He broke into the real estate world in Brooklyn, and his early work was all near New York City.

But Krohn, 40, has rapidly become one of the major development names in this region: He's partnering with Zelman Real Estate to build 360 apartments in East Hartford and another 111 in Bloomfield.

A half-hour to the south, Krohn's Jasko Development is embarking on its biggest undertaking yet in downtown New Britain, The Brit, a stylish six-story, 107-unit apartment building.

"There's so much in New Britain. I love doing this in places where there's a vision. And it comes down to one thing — partnerships," Krohn said recently when asked about his rise as one of the region's major builders.

Krohn wasn't specifically eying Connecticut when he began investing in real estate.

In his early 20s, he and a partner bought a house in an upward-bound neighborhood in Brooklyn for \$280,000. They leased it to a tenant and 16 months later sold it for about \$350,000.

Krohn has been looking for value markets ever since. He concluded central Connecticut was a good investment. "It's about opportunity. You build a niche," he said.

Early on, a lot of his business was constructing or rehabbing small clinics for dentists and urgent care centers. Jasko's website lists a number of those along with small shops in commercial strip centers in Torrington, Enfield, Vernon and elsewhere.

But New Britain got his attention around 2005, and in recent years he's been focusing more of his work there. At the same time, Jasko has been shifting to mixed-use and residential development, initially with small- and moderate-scale buildings.

"I might live in New York, but I'm here every single week for 15 years. I spend more time here than at home," he said.

The company renovated the historic Rao, Raphael and Andrews buildings into apartment complexes of 14 to 20 units each, and with each one Krohn has expanded what he sees for the revival of the Hardware City's downtown.

His vision for the projects in the city has energized officials and business leaders alike.

Mayor Erin Stewart and Downtown

District Executive Director Gerry Amodio both praise him for coming back over the years to steadily take on new projects.

The city has pumped millions of dollars into a facelift for Central Park and the appealing Beehive Bridge, but Amodio credits Krohn for bringing sorely needed private capital into the downtown renewal.

This year, Krohn bought the decaying, abandoned Burritt Bank building at Main and Bank streets and promptly demolished it. In its place, he plans 107 apartments in what would become the city's most attention-grabbing building.

Krohn plans a ground-floor restaurant, a 5,000-square-foot open-air courtyard with seating outdoor dining along the edges of the building facing the Main and Bank sidewalks.

Curving glazed windows will face the corner of Main and Bank on the second through fifth floors, but Krohn did away with sixth-floor corner apartment to leave space for a terrace for tenants. Neon lettering will spell out The Brit.

Krohn, who describes himself as "a fiend for architecture," is spending heavily for marketing and branding for The Brit. In the end, he sees it as a centerpiece of a downtown revival that can raise all property values and inspire fresh enthusiasm for the city.

But as much as he enjoys designing projects to be more than ordinary, he's serious about making them profitable.

"I'm numbers-driven, too. As many times as towns have great ideas, if the economics don't work then they don't work," he said. "As much as I have a vision and a plan, I always start with the numbers."

Krohn seeks tax incentives from the communities he works in. But he insists that the value his projects create — construction jobs and new residences for tenants who spend in the neighborhood — far outweighs the cost. When a community balks, he simply looks elsewhere.

"I'm impatient to a fault. I have no time for dilly-dallying, none. I come in with a presentation. I start with the numbers that it needs to work," he said. "I have a very candid conversation."

Krohn attributes part of his business success to his grandmother's motto: "Don't clean the table." To Krohn, that means leaving some profit and progress for his subcontractors, his investors and the communities Jasko operates in.

"We under-promise and over-deliver. And it's paid off. You talk to any of the municipalities we work with, we've come through on our promises," he said. "You live one life. You want to do something that's meaningful."

BUSINESS

Eversource warns of pending increase in natural gas prices

Electricity and heating costs also predicted to rise

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

The cost of keeping your house warm is going up this winter.

Eversource Energy warned its customers that beginning this month natural gas heating prices could jump 14%, costing an average \$30 a month more than last year as global energy markets are roiled by post-pandemic demand hikes, forecasts of a cold winter and supply problems in Europe.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration has also forecast that average U.S. household spending for all major home heating fuels will increase significantly this winter primarily because of higher expected fuel costs and increased energy use in what's expected to be a colder winter.

Average increases vary by fuel, region and weather assumptions, the agency said. Compared with last winter, the government forecasts that propane spending will rise by 54%, heating oil by 43%, natural gas by 30% and electricity by 6%.

The rising cost of natural gas will have an impact on the cost of electricity, which will likely rise beginning Jan. 1, Eversource said. The utility serves 4 million electricity and natural gas customers in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Utilities do not earn a profit on the cost of electricity in Connecticut, but charges customers what it pays generators for electricity.

Philip J. Lembo, chief financial officer of Eversource, told industry analysts on a conference call last week that with



The U.S. Energy Information Administration has also forecast that average U.S. household spending for all major home heating fuels will increase significantly this winter.

MICHAEL TERCHA / CHICAGO TRIBUNE

New England power plant reliance on natural gas, rising prices are "significantly affecting power prices."

Natural gas pipeline bottlenecks that affect New England typically cost consumers an additional 1.5 cents to 2 cents per kilowatt-hour for electricity, he said. Recent natural gas price pressures will add 2 cents to 3 cents per kilowatt-hour, or \$20 to \$25 more per month over last year for a typical residential customer, Lembo said.

Customers are partially protected because Eversource has spread out power purchase contracts, with less expensive earlier buys offsetting more recent purchases, he said.

Avangrid also is advising customers of its natural gas companies, Connecticut Natural Gas and Southern Connecticut Gas, that natural gas energy supply prices are expected to increase. It's offering help to manage natural gas use and costs.

A primary factor that determines price is how much gas is used. Natural gas use has been "partic-

ularly low" so far because autumn temperatures have been mild, Lembo said.

Natural gas prices were falling with rising supply before the spread of COVID-19 in early 2020. Prices fell more steeply during the pandemic and are now rising in response to higher global demand as the economy recovers.

Eversource urges customers to take advantage of programs such as Connecticut's UniteCT and Eversource's energy efficiency solutions and payment plans. UniteCT provides up to \$15,000 rental and electricity payment assistance on behalf of Connecticut households financially affected by the pandemic.

In addition, the utility cited Operation Fuel, a Hartford-based private, nonprofit energy assistance program for those who need emergency help with their energy bills and aren't receiving other state or federal assistance.

Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@courant.com.

GOOD NEIGHBOR

Your reader-to-reader column

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WALKER: Seeking standard walker with wheels (not a rollator) for indoor use for elderly man with balance issues. 860 280-2797.
CAR: Seeking a donated good running car for elderly person in Putnam for doctor appointments. Cannot afford one. 508-335-5060. Leave a message.
WOOD CHIPS: Coventry gardener looking for a load of wood chips. Will pay for delivery. 860-742-6511.
COUNTERS: Looking to donate a 6' kitchen counter and matching 21.5" counter, waterfall edge and backsplash to Habitat for Humanity. Need someone to deliver it to organization. In good condition. 402-575-7422.
SEEKING GARAGE: In need of garage

space from now through mid-April. 860-212-6000. Leave message.
MECHANIC: Seeking mechanic for repairs of old pick-up truck for senior citizen. Please be reasonable. 860-796-6132.
VCR TAPE PLAYER: Seeking used tape player, free or inexpensive. 860-673-1335. Ask for Kathleen.
SEEKING CDS: Seeking English country dance CDs. 860-805-8337.
WORLD WAR II: History buff seeking anything from World War II, especially small, easy to display patches, medals, pins, badges, helmets, etc. Will consider larger items. Call/text Tom at 860-933-8521 or email twheinonen@gmail.com.
COMPUTER ASSISTANCE: Seeking female to help with computer assistance (how to scan photos, upload photos, etc.) 860-347-4594.
EBAY: Seeking female to assist for help with listing items on ebay. 860-347-4594.
BACK SUPPORT: Senior looking for Therapeutica spinal back support for car seat. 860-666-5699.
RECORDS: Seeking 45 rpm records for jukebox, 1950s to present, in decent condition. 860-882-2286. Ask for Ricky.
HELP WITH PROJECT: In need of someone to cut out top half of small narrow cupboard door and replace with glass. Reasonable. Text 860-869-2933.
SEEKING WORK: Seeking part time work cleaning stalls on a small horse farm with possible riding privileges. Years of experience in riding and barn chores. Call or text 860-817-7960. East Windsor/Enfield areas.
OIL STAIN: Seeking white oil stain. Will pick up. Call or text 860-202-6274.
SNOWBLOWING HELP: Seeking individual to snow blow driveway with incline in Suffield. Plow trucks not an option. 860-668-6248.
LAWN MOWING, SNOW REMOVAL: Does anyone know of someone who mows grass and/or plows snow? 860-289-0101 after 5 p.m.
CAR: Seeking a donation of a car, for an elderly and disabled person who cannot afford one. Email annxxrose@yahoo.com or call 860-230-1026. Leave message.

Be a good neighbor

To submit, send an email to community@courant.com or mail to 285 Broad St., Hartford, CT 06115. Good Neighbor is a service by Courant Community. Questions and answers are provided by our readers and are not verified. Medical information cannot be published. Caution should be exercised at all times. The publisher is not responsible for damage to any person or property.

Community News

from Page 4

Proceeds from the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford will benefit their Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship. For further information, email francespudlo@att.net or phone 860-659-0356.

Hartford High's Class of 1971 reunion taking place in April

HARTFORD — The Hartford Public High School Class of 1971 is hosting its 51st reunion in April 2022. Visit HPHS71.com for more information on the reunion. The reunion committee is looking to find as many classmates as possible. Email hphs71info@gmail.com with questions.

Harry Potter Film Concert Series returns to The Bushnell

HARTFORD — The Harry Potter Film Concert Series returns to The Bushnell with Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire in Concert, the fourth film in the Harry Potter series. On April 23 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., the Hartford Symphony Orchestra will perform the magical score live from Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire while the entire film plays in high-definition on a 40-foot screen.

Visit hartfordsymphony.org to purchase tickets. Visit www.harrypotterinconcert.com for more information on the concert series.

Awesome AF dinner benefits substance use awareness

SIMSBURY — The nonprofit organization, A Promise to Jordan, will host its first Awesome AF Dinner fundraiser on Thursday, Nov. 18, at Soma Grille, 731 Hopmeadow St. This recovery-friendly will indeed be a great time, but, in this case, the AF stands for “Alcohol-Free.”

“We are thrilled to offer an alternative to the typical wine dinner many nonprofits offer as fundraisers since our organization is committed to fighting substance use disorders,” said Lisa Gray, Founder and Executive Director of A Promise to Jordan. “Guests will enjoy a fabulous four-course meal prepared by the chefs at Soma Grille, and each course will be paired with a specialty non-alcoholic wine or mocktail prepared by Queenie’s Cocktail Bar of Simsbury.”

The event will take place from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the lower level banquet area of the restaurant. Any COVID-related restrictions still in place at the time will be strictly followed. Guests can look forward to a silent and live auction, raffle prizes, and games.

Tickets are \$60 per person, or a VIP table

for eight can be reserved for \$500 and the purchaser will receive priority table placement and their name on the table.

Organizers are accepting auction and raffle donations such as gift cards, gift baskets, décor items, jewelry and fashion or gourmet treats. Someone will pick them up.

Proceeds will benefit the organization that is dedicated to raising awareness about substance use disorders, eliminating the stigma associated with them, assisting people in accessing quality care, and giving hope to those struggling with addiction and their families that recovery is possible. Gray created A Promise to Jordan after losing her then 24-year-old son, Jordan Arakelian, to an accidental overdose in 2018.

In addition to community educational programs, A Promise to Jordan hosts NARCAN and QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) trainings designed to save the lives of overdose victims and those contemplating suicide. This holiday season, a holiday toy drive will supply gifts for individuals in residential treatment to give to their children when they come to visit. Visit apromisetojordan.org for information and resources or call 860-390-1391.

Library offering drop-in turkey craft, take-home kit

ENFIELD — WINDSOR LOCKS — The Windsor Locks Public Library, 28 Main St., is offering a drop-in paper plate turkey craft and take-home craft kit through Saturday, Nov. 20.

When guests check out a book, they will receive a turkey puppet take-home craft kit, best for ages three to eight. No registration is required. Visit <https://www.windsorlockslibrary.org/> for more information.

Windsor Locks Athletic Hall of Fame hosting induction ceremony

EAST WINDSOR — The Windsor Locks Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony will take place at LaNotte, 17 Thompson Road, on Friday Nov. 26.

The 2021 Hall of Fame class includes Brendon Copes, Valarie (Gasparino) Giaccone, Kathy Heneghan, Paul King, Tom Mandrola, and Paddy O'Connor. Social hour is at 6 p.m. and the buffet dinner will begin at 7 p.m.

Cost to attend is \$50 per adult and \$20 per child ages five to 13. Contact Dave Farr at dfarralbb@aol.com for tickets or purchase them at Windsor Locks Park and Rec.

Imagine 3 exhibit features work of artist Dan J. Ferraina

WINDSOR — The Imagine 3 exhibit at Windsor Art Center, 40 Mechanic St., is a

Turn to Community News, Page 10



Madeline Duskocy chips the ball toward the East Haven goal, as teammates Ida Stenzel and Brooke Diwinsky look on.



Erica Paparian dribbles the ball down field.

Ellington starts tourney on winning note

By Steve Smith
Courant Community

ELLINGTON — A quick comeback goal and two in overtime got the Knights a first round victory as the girls' soccer teams squared off at Ellington, on Nov. 8.

It wasn't until 15:49 left in regulation when East Haven struck first, but Ellington answered just 1:12 later, when a shot from winger Erica Paparian that looked like a cross into the box found its way to the far top corner of the net.

The tie held, but the Knights scored a goal with just 13 seconds left in the first overtime period when a cross bounced high into the air in front of the net, and then glanced off of Paparian's chest and knuckled into the goal.

Another goal with 8:34 remaining in the second OT period came when Paparian fired at East Haven goalie Seralyn Lendroth, who bobbled and dropped the ball, but Ellington's Anna Moser arrived just in time to tuck the loose ball into the net.

Coach David Laporte said his team has seemed to play best under pressure this season.

"That's been our whole year. We're much better when

we get down a goal," he said. "Lights go on, like we might actually lose this game. We've been working on it all season - we haven't come out with that focus and intensity from the start."

Laporte said that while it might not be the best strategy, especially as tournament opponents get presumably tougher, it just might be what happens to work for the Knights.

"We'll just ride it out. You just hope that other teams are just one goal better than you [at first], and then you can get two or three by the end," he said.

Laporte said scoring has been at a premium, even with a speedy, talented team. Making those final passes into strikers is an area in which the Knights could still improve.

"We're going to practice the simple stuff - passing and receiving, shooting, crossing and finishing," Laporte said. "We have to do our job. When you come out here, you have to be ready, focused and set to go. Most of the time, we're not ready until we get scored on."

Note: The Knights lost their subsequent game to E.O. Smith, on Nov. 10.

For a complete tournament bracket, visit www.ciacsports.com.



Natalie Ewald finds the ball near the goal.

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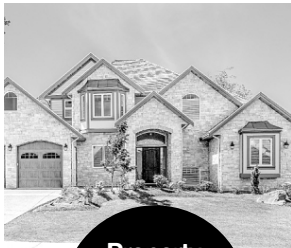
goal line and looks to set up a cross. **STEVE SMITH PHOTOS**



Ellington's Ella Moser tries to thread the ball through the East Haven defense.



Anna Moser winds up to send the ball network.



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Political Jargon

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

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Community News

from Page 7

celebration of the artistic legacy of Dan J. Ferraina, (Dec. 4, 1935 — Nov. 25, 2020) a life-long Windsor resident and community benefactor.

The exhibition is running from now through Dec. 4. Ferraina was a charismatic man with a three-dimensional mind, always searching for a new challenge. Mathematically inclined, he was obsessed with numbers that in later years, shaped his artistic tendencies and spilled onto paper as intricate patterns and forms.

In keeping with Ferraina's philanthropic nature, his family will donate 100-percent of the proceeds from all sales of works in this exhibition to the Windsor Art Center.

This exhibition is made possible with the support of Hartford Hospital, Clearwood Building, Pelton Graphics, University of Hartford, PrintHub, and other businesses and individuals from the community.

Somers food drive to benefit Champs Place

SOMERS — Somers American Legion Family Auxiliary, Riders, Sons and Post will hold a drive-in food drive for Champs Place, a food pantry located at Somers Congregational Church, 599 Main St., from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20.

Needed food items are cranberry sauce, green beans, turkey gravy, stuffing, cream of mushroom soup, canned yams, fried onion rings, brown sugar, canned pineapple, spam, corned beef hash and deviled ham. Other items needed that are not available through Foodshare include shampoo, razors, shaving cream, feminine products, adhesive bandages, denture cleanser, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Library invites teens to Suminagashi art program

ENFIELD — The Enfield Public Library, 104 Middle Road, invites teens ages 13 to 18 to create Suminagashi prints on Tuesday, Nov. 23, at 6:30 p.m.

Suminagashi is the Japanese art of paper marbling. Participants will learn the history of the art and create their own to take home. Registration is required. Visit www.enfieldpubliclibrary.org or email kraiche@enfield.org to register.

Grief support group taking place at Enfield church

ENFIELD — GriefShare offers help and encouragement after the death of a

spouse, child, family member or friend. Those interested in attending may begin at any session and do not have to attend in sequence.

The course helps participants understand they are not alone, and that others have been on the same path. The group gathers at Calvary Presbyterian Church, 1518 King St., from 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays. An evening class will be offered if there is enough interest. For further information, call Calvary Church at 860-745-5211.

Enfield Senior Center hosting afternoon dance

ENFIELD — The Enfield Senior Center, 299 Elm St., is hosting the following programs. Call 860-763-7425 for more information.

An afternoon dance will take place from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19. Enjoy an afternoon of music and dancing to the sounds of Richie Mitnick on the keyboards. Music and snacks are sponsored by Stonebrook Village at Windsor Locks. This event is free.

Ask the Lawyer, a free 15-minute consultation, is available during limited morning hours on Nov. 24. Call the Senior Center at 860-763-7425 to schedule an appointment.

The Senior Center hosted a costume contest during the Oct. 29 Halloween Social. Prize winners were Elaine Furtak as Betsy Ross in first place, Sam Porcello as the Bearded Wizard in second place, and Omaira and Gordon Gaulin as a clown couple in third place.

During November, SLTV will feature Melanie Lambert, Director of the CT CHOICES Program. She will explain how the state's health insurance assistance program helps senior citizens and individuals with disabilities make informed decisions about Medicare coverage for 2022. Tune into Channel 15 on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. or Fridays at 9:30 a.m. on Cox Cable. The show is produced by the Enfield Commission on Aging with the help of Cox Public Access TV.

Questions about Medicare Open Enrollment? CHOICES helps Connecticut's older adults and people with disabilities understand their Medicare coverage and healthcare options. Open enrollment is from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7. For appointments with Jennifer Switalski, LMSW, Elderly Services Care Coordinator with the Enfield Social Services Department, call 860-253-6403.

Appointments with Will St. George, CHOICES Counselor, are available on Thursday afternoons at the Enfield Public Library or Friday mornings at the Enfield Senior Center. Call 860-763-7425 for more information. Spaces are limited.

LOCAL NEWS

Community News

from Page 10

Church hosting holiday bazaar with Polish flair

HARTFORD — The Ladies Guild of SS. Cyril & Methodius Church and the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford, Inc. are jointly hosting a holiday bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event will be held in the lower hall of SS. Cyril & Methodius Church, 63 Popiełuszko Court, directly behind the Rectory at 55 Charter Oak Ave. and across the street from the Polish National Home. Popiełuszko Court is a one-way street and must be approached from Wyllys Street.

The bazaar is free to the general public and handicapped accessible. Strict attention is being paid to air purity and disinfection with the use of three permanently installed Aerus Hydroxyl Blaster units in the hall.

The Ladies Guild will feature potato/cheese pierogi sold by the dozen, rings of kielbasa, pastries, pączki, babki, kielbasa sandwiches for lunch or takeout, as well as vintage jewelry, decorative Christmas wreaths, a jigsaw puzzle swap, and more.

Local crafters will be on hand to sell crocheted items, jewelry, gourmet truffles, peanut/cashew brittle and toffee. The Polish Cultural Club will be featuring books on Polish subjects, Polish import craft items including costumed dolls, a Unique Boutique, opłatki, and the club's "Favorite Recipes" cookbook. There will also be a display of Szopki, the traditional castle-like creches that originated in Kraków.

Proceeds from the Ladies Guild will benefit various Church programs and projects. Proceeds from the Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford will benefit their Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship. For further information, email francespudlo@att.net or phone 860-659-0356.

Tolland Library hosting holiday silent auction

TOLLAND — The Tolland Public Library, 21 Tolland Green, will host a festival of table-top holiday trees and other decorations, available for silent bidding. Bidding ends on Dec. 3 at 5 p.m. and top bidders can take their items home. Others will be notified by phone that their bids were the best. For more information, contact the Tolland Public Library at 860-871-3620.

Frosty Village Bazaar taking place

TOLLAND — Get in the holiday mood at Saint Matthew Church, 111 Tolland Green, at the Frosty Village Bazaar on Friday, Nov. 19, from 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The bazaar will feature hand-crafted items, apple pies, baked goods and cookies, knit and crochet apparel, doll clothes, pet-inspired gifts, jewelry, attic treasures and raffles. The kitchen is open, with homemade soup to go for sale. Masks are required for this event. For more information, visit www.blessedsacramentct.org or call 860-872-0200.

Society offering holiday marketplace

ELLINGTON — A new holiday marketplace at the Ellington Historical Society, 70 Main St., will be open for shopping Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., through Christmas. The holiday marketplace is filled to the brim with holiday decor, artisan finds, specialty collections and seasonal bargains. The 1812 Federalist style house museum, Nellie's Mercantile and the Vintage Wares Barn will also be open.

The classic old fashioned mercantile features farmhouse collections, town themed Ellington décor, local artisan wares and an inviting wonderland of a Christmas shop.

The historic 1812 Federalist style home features renovated exhibits including eras of styles, "Nellie" exhibits, wedding dress collection, vintage nursery, antique, china collection, sewing and textile exhibit, kitchen nostalgia, vintage women's clothing boutique and more.

Groups are welcome to book private shopping hours. Contact ellingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com for more information.

Shop Ellington 2021 celebrates shopping local

ELLINGTON — The Ellington Economic Development Commission is sponsoring the second annual Shop Local campaign - Shop Ellington 2021. The event is intended to connect patrons and local businesses and will run for ten days starting Friday, Nov. 26, through Sunday, Dec. 5.

During the event, citizens can earn raffle tickets (stickers) toward becoming eligible for raffle prizes that will be awarded at a drawing in mid-December. Patrons are encouraged to visit participating Ellington businesses to learn about services, make purchases, grab a bite to eat/drink, take tours, etc., but no purchase is necessary. As long as a meaningful interaction transpires, patrons qualify for one ticket per interaction during the event.

After Dec. 5, customer raffle cards will be collected by the office of the EDC, the Ellington Planning Department, and cards with five or more stickers will be entered into a raffle drawing for a variety of prizes.

To learn how to become a participating business, how to print a Customer Raffle Card, and access more details about the event, contact planner@ellington-ct.gov or 860-870-3120.

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TRIBUNE
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Subaru's bold Ascent

By William Heald
Special to Courant Community

Subaru is quite the unique car company, for they go their own way in terms of drive-trains, all-weather capability and even marketing.

With the latter they've recently focused on the family unit, including all generations and even featured pets. Dogs in particular have found themselves in the spotlight in a number of television ads, all to show prospective owners they understand family members often have four legs as well. The company considers safety and utility to be of paramount importance, and have shown both technical sophistication and a certain unique design philosophy in every aspect of their cars.

The Ascent is Subaru's big 3-row family hauler, and as a week of testing revealed, is a serious contender for any large family's garage space right out of the box. For 2022 the company has introduced a new Onyx Edition, and we were fortunate enough to get to sample this new trim level that adds its own style, technology and comfort to the available lineup.

Like all Subarus, the Ascent comes only in an All-Wheel-Drive format and this largest member of the family is built on a 113.8-inch wheelbase. The 5 trim levels include Base, Premium, Onyx Edition, Limited and Touring. All versions come with the same drive-train, including Subaru's signature Boxer Horizontally Opposed Four Cylinder, this time turbocharged and displacing 2.4-Liters. This mill puts out 260 horsepower, and is mated to a Lineartronic Continuously Variable transmission with an 8-speed manual mode.

This channels power to all four wheels

via Subaru's Active Torque Split All-Wheel Drive with electronically controlled variable transfer clutch; X-MODE is used for tough low-traction situations in snow, mud, sand, etc. The 2.4-Liter is no rocket sled but delivers adequate acceleration and very decent fuel economy considering the substantial size of the vehicle. The X-MODE makes a very all-weather capable vehicle even more so in challenging conditions. Handling is stable but not too sporty, considering the high vehicle profile.

The interior of the Ascent borders on minivan territory, but is still a conventional CUV with ordinary rear doors unlike the sliding variety found on minivans. The Ascent interior is a great mix of ample room, excellent adaptability and great long-term comfort. The upholstery on the Onyx Edition is a water-resistant material called StarTex, which is much like leather and seems very durable.

The instruments and controls are very traditional in terms of the driver's analog gauges, and very contemporary with an optional StarLink Navigation system with an excellent 8-inch touchscreen.

Standard with the Onyx are 2nd row Captain's Seats that both slide and recline, and are very roomy with a flat floor and excellent headroom. The 3rd row is habitable for more compact individuals but pretty acceptable overall, accessible either through an aisle in-between the Captain's Chairs or tumbling one of these chairs out of the way.

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Gifts for the home are appreciated for years to come



(BPT) - If you're like most people, you've spent more time at home in the last year and a half than ever before. While there are probably things you love about your house, spending so much time there makes you acutely aware of where upgrades are in order.

Fortunately, you don't need to spend a lot of money on renovations to give your home a refresh. This holiday season treat yourself to these gifts for the home that will help you elevate favorite spaces so you can enjoy them for years to come:

Sing in the shower

Imagine taking a soothing shower and as the warm water washes over you, you're also surrounded by your favorite sounds. This immersive sensory experience is a great way to wake up in the morning or relax in the evening, thanks to the multifunctional Moxie showerhead.

Combining a luxurious spray with a high-quality audio speaker with sound by Harman Kardon, this wireless speaker elevates every shower. Whether you're in the mood for a favorite podcast, rocking out to dance music or breathing deep to calming tunes, you can customize the experience by pairing it to your phone or other personal device. Plus, because it's portable, you can bring it wherever you want to go, from the bathroom to the bedroom and beyond.

Ease kitchen cleanup

Whether you're baking treats to spread some joy or cooking up a feast for friends and family, the kitchen becomes the hub of the home. This also means it can become mess central. With a Kohler Step Can garbage container, throwing away messes is simple with hands-free operation thanks to a sturdy foot pedal.

From slim 2.5-gallon trash cans to large 13-gallon options, there are sizes to fit any space. Clean lines and thoughtful designs allow it to be placed right against the wall or a cabinet for a flush fit. Made with a sleek stainless steel fingerprint-proof finish, this can will stay cleaner longer, no matter how messy your kitchen adventures get.

Style the bathroom

Bathroom countertops can become chaotic surfaces packed with grooming and wellness supplies. A touch of organization can transform the space with style similar to what you see in home magazines. Explore Bente collection accessory sets in a variety of colors to match your bathroom aesthetic, including ebony pearl, oyster pearl and herringbone.

These accessory sets hold favorite bathroom supplies, enhancing the beauty and organization of the bathroom countertop space. This helps you create a cohesive, elevated look that is especially appreciated if you're hosting guests. Staying at someone else's home? Bente sets come in a beautiful gift box and make a great hostess gift.

Create mood with light

When you update lighting, you not only add style to spaces, you make them more functional, too. Ambient lighting is typically overhead lighting that can be adjusted to brighten or dim the room to set the mood or enhance surrounding light. Adding task lighting designs, such as a lighted bathroom mirror with magnification or a decorative tabletop reading lamp, elevates the overall decor aesthetic, while also providing the perfect light for grooming to start your day or an intimate lighting source to help you tuck into that favorite book at night. Accent lighting can highlight architectural details and other decorative elements within a home. When all of these lighting types align, you can create a sophisticated atmosphere that is also intuitive to your personal taste and lifestyle.

No matter what your lighting needs, Kohler lighting is available in a wide range of styles and finishes for whole home solutions. From statement-making chandeliers and flush-mounts to pendants, sconces and bath bars that can be paired or grouped for dramatic effect, each piece is expertly crafted using the finest materials and is quality tested to ensure the design remains beautiful for many years to come. Many of the Kohler Lighting designs also offer color-matched finishes to complement Kohler faucets and fixtures for seamless bathroom applications.

Whether it's a gift for yourself or a gift for a loved one, these upgrades are high impact yet affordable. This makes spending time at home more enjoyable than ever.

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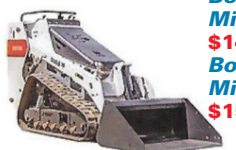
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